

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Abstract on page 25 of the specification as follows:

An improved dental appliance system, and methods for using and fabricating the improved appliance, including a polymeric overlay or shell having a teeth-receiving cavity formed therein and a wire mounted on or embedded in the polymeric shell. The dental appliance having the necessary stiffness or strength to firmly secure the appliance on the teeth and provide controlled forces required for repositioning the teeth, until such time as removal of the appliance is desired. The appliance may be configured for use with a removal mechanism. The removal mechanism undergoes a state change stimulated by an environmental stimulus or environmental switch.

Appl. No. 10/799,432
Amdt. dated November 7, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

PATENT

Please replace the Title of the invention with the following Title:

TOOTH POSITIONING APPLIANCES AND SYSTEMS

Please replace paragraph 1, beginning on page 1 at line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

The present application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/262,516 (Attorney Docket No. 018563-000540/AT-00006.3), filed September 30, 2002 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,705,861, issued March 16, 2004), which was a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/099,187 (Attorney Docket No. 018563-000530), filed March 13, 2002 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,485,298, issued November 26, 2002), which was a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/757,385 (Attorney Docket No. 018563-000520/AT-00006.1), filed January 8, 2001 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,390,812, issued May 21, 2002), which was a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/250,962 (~~Patent No. 6,183,248 B1~~) (Attorney Docket No. 018563-000510/AT00006), filed February 16, 1999 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,183,248, issued February 6, 2001), which claimed the benefit and priority of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/110,189 (Attorney Docket No. 018563-000500-AT00005), filed November 30, 1998. This application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/139,153 (Attorney Docket No. 18563-001530/AT00047.2), filed on May 2, 2002, which was a continuation-in-part of PCT Application No. PCT/US01/13280 (Attorney Docket No. 018563-001520PC), filed April 24, 2001, which was a continuation continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/616,222 (Attorney Docket No. ~~185630~~18563-001510), filed July 14, 2000 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,572,372, issued June 3, 2003), which claimed the benefit and priority of prior U.S. Provisional Application Nos. ~~provisional application numbers~~ 60/199,649 (Attorney Docket No. 018563-001500), and 60/199,650 (Attorney Docket No. 018563-001300), both filed on April 25, 2000. The full disclosures of each of the above patents and applications are hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes.

Please amend the specification at paragraph 0038 as follows:

[0038] Shell 102 may also be configured with a reinforcement structure, such as a wire, a filament, a mesh, a ring, and/or a braid. The reinforcement structure may also be capable of undergoing a change in material property or else a change in shape, such that the change facilitates the removal of the appliance from the teeth. For example, appliance 100 may be fabricated with a polymeric external layer and a metal inner wire embedded in at least a portion of the appliance proximate to either the engagement with the undercut or the engagement with the anchor. The metal inner wire can be made of a memory shape metal, such as ~~Nitinol®~~, ~~Bimetal®~~, ~~Memotal®~~ the nickel-titanium alloy known under the tradename "NITINOL™", or other alloys known under the tradenames "BIMETAL™", "MEMOTAL™" or similar alloy. The wire undergoes a change in material property (and/or shape) as it is subjected to a thermal stimulus or other external stimulus. In this example, the wire changes geometry. Since the wire is embedded within the appliance, the appliance also changes shape, which reduces the shells hold on the teeth.